

We claim:

1. Apparatus for use by an access point in a wireless communications environment

wherein multiple channels are available for communication, comprising:

logic for sending claim messages to other devices;

logic for receiving claim messages from other devices;

logic for using the claim messages it sends and receives to select a channel on which to communicate;

logic for sending Announce messages to other devices to indicate the access point's presence and its protocol capability to the other devices;

logic for receiving Bid messages from other devices, wherein a device sends a Bid message to the access point to indicate that the device desires to communicate in the wireless communications environment via the access point;

logic for sending an Accept message to a device in response to a Bid message to indicate that the access point will allow the device to communicate in the wireless communications environment via the access point.

2. The Apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

logic for receiving registration request messages from devices, wherein a device sends a registration request message to the access point to indicate that the device desires to communicate in the wireless communications environment via the access point using a particular protocol;

logic for sending registration acknowledge messages to devices, wherein the access point sends a Registration acknowledge message to a device in response to a Registration Request message, to indicate that the access point understands that the device will communicate in the wireless communications environment using the Dynamic Radio Control Protocol.

3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein a Bid message is sent by a device to the access point if the device ascertains that the access point is likely to provide better wireless communications performance than another access point through which the device is currently communicating.